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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Layout of the Slasko-Dabrowskie Coal Basin

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1. "The following information on the Slasko-Dabrowskie Coal Basin dates through

Introduction

2. "The eastern and northeastern strips of the Silesian coal basin still constitute a separate traditional coal mining region. Having been separated for over 100 years from the German or Austrian part of Silesia, respectively, this small coal mining region around Sosnowiec and Dabrowa-Gornicza has kept its individuality within the organizational system of coal mining in Poland. Coal exploitation and excavation at present [redacted] is operated under the organization called the 'Union of Coal Industry', (Zjednoczenia Przemyslu Węglowego). This separately set-up union operates in the Slasko-Dabrowskie region, covering the eastern edge of the Silesian basin which produces a rather minor type of coal product.

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New Developments in this Area

3. "Some new investments have been made in this area within the last years [exact years not given] by the opening of two deep coal mines, Mortimer II and Mortimer III, and by starting to work on two other deep coal mines, the Porabka and the Gen. Zawadzki II. The latter mine has deposits directly underneath the earth and is worked on from above without shaft operation. The Polish name for this type: kopalnia od krywkowa. The sand which is excavated during this development stage is used to fill the digging areas in that part of the Gen. Zawadzki I coal mine, which is still operated by the shaft excavation method.

Layout of the Slasko-Dabrowskie Coal Basin

4. "I have prepared a map of the Slasko-Dabrowskie Coal Basin which is drawn to a

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scale of 1: 25,000 and shows various coal mines, utilities, railroads and other enterprises in this area. There are symbols on the map showing rail lines, railroad lines operated for coal transport only, railroad lines operated for coal and passenger transport, high-tension lines, coal mines and out of operation etc. [redacted] is available at the CIA Map Library. To borrow map code 143, ext. 2596. Map call number 88166-R.7

No.	Object	Location on Plan	Remarks
1	Kazimierz-Juliusz coal mine	I-8	The mine is approximately 600 meters deep. It is known for its large quantity of waste gases which makes it dangerous to work in it. The ventilation system is good. Besides its main shaft, the coal mine operates a second auxiliary coal producing shaft, the 'Juliusz' and two lifting shafts. The daily output of the Kazimierz-Juliusz coal mine is estimated as between 3,500 and 4,000 tons. A compulsory labor camp is attached to the coal mine with approximately 500 inmates. The camp is a former World War II British PW camp. In addition to the compulsory labor camp inmates, around 1,500 free coal miners are employed in the mine. The coal mine is equipped with its own power plant. In 1952 an explosion blew up some installations within the plant. Approximately 20 workers were arrested on the charge of sabotage. Only a few of them were afterwards released. Later [that year] another sabotage act was committed in the same coal mine by putting the lifting machinery of the mine out of operation. Five of the coal miners received long terms of imprisonment for these sabotage acts.
1-A	A second auxiliary coal producing shaft called the 'Juliusz'	H-10, 11	
2	Klimontow coal mine	F-9, 10	About 400 meters deep. Operated with two shafts. In 1952 and 1953 some improvements were made in the coal mine, one of which was the electrification of the lift system. The ventilation installations are said to be good. The daily production does not exceed 2,000 tons. There are 2,100 miners employed here, of which about 300 are inmates of the compulsory labor camp housed similarly to those of the Kazimierz mine in the World War II British PW camp. The coal mine is equipped with its own small power plant. The director of the coal mine is Benon Stranz who was elected [redacted] as a member of Parliament.
3	Gen. Zawadzki I coal mine, formerly 'Paryz'	C, D-4	It is approximately 400 meters deep, located in the northern outskirts of Dabrowa-Gornicza bordering the Dzerzynskiego steel mill (formerly, the Bankowa steel mill). Before World War II there was some coal

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[continued next page]

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No.	Object	Location on Plan	Remarks
			mined in this coal mine by strip mining. Pits 15 meters deep are still visible in the coal mine area which have been filled with slag. This coal mine has its own small power plant.
3-A	Gen. Zawadzki II coal mine	B,C-3	A new surface stripping method coal mine (Polish term: <u>kopanie a od Krywkowa</u> ), on the northern bank of the Czarna Przemsza river. This coal mine is still in its development stage and is on 167 hectares of the fields of the Zagisza village. The coal is 40 meters deep under the earth's surface. According to calculations around ten million tons can be mined in this area. Production of 3,000 tons per day is planned. Coal mining is supposed to start [REDACTED] For the time being the layers of earth are opened up to a depth of about 15 meters. Soviet, Czech, and East German coal mining machinery is installed--the latter being of greatest importance in the future coal mining field.
4	Stalin coal mine	C-9	Formerly the 'Hrabia Renard' coal mine, in the western outskirts of Sosnowiec. It has a bad reputation for its strenuous and difficult working conditions among miners. A very high waste dump is visible 10 km north of it.
5	Ludwik coal mine	B,C-10 F-10, G	In the western outskirts of Sosnowiec, near the Stalin coal mine. My informant could not give any additional information.
6	Mortimer I.	F-6	Located in Zagorze. One of the oldest coal mines of the entire area. This shallow coal mine employs at present around 800 coal miners (all of them free miners) and operates without a lift tower, merely with a so-called 'inclined plane' ( <u>pochylnia</u> ). There are rumors to the effect that after opening the two sister coal mines, Mortimer I will either be closed or just used as an auxiliary mine.
6 A	Mortimer II	G-6	A newly constructed coal mine, east of Zagorze, near the former 'Albert' coal mine which was abandoned and overflooded in 1932. The new coal mine is at present [REDACTED] 200 meters deep.
6 B	Mortimer III	G-7	A newly installed coal mine, close to Mortimer II. It operates like Mortimer II without a lift tower but with a so-called 'inclined plane' ( <u>pochylnia</u> ). All three Mortimers operate as one com-

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No.	Object	Location on Plan	Remarks
7	Porabka coal mine	F-7	A coal mine presently [redacted] under installation near Zagorze. Before World War II this was the Jadwiga coal mine which was overflooded shortly before World War II. During the economic crisis of 1931-36 some of the coal mines were put out of operation by their owners, among them the Mortimer, Jadwiga, Klimontow, and the Mars mine near Gwodziec. The Mars mine is still under water (beyond the sketch). In the Porabka coal mine besides the dewatering work, new ventilation shafts are presently under installation. The Porabka mine, according to plans, will be the largest within the entire group of the Slasko-Dabrowskie coal basin. According to my research work, this coal mine is located absolutely in the center of the coal trough. At least 10,000 tons of daily output are anticipated from the Porabka mine which is scheduled to begin operations in 1955.
8	Niwka-Modrzejow coal mine	C,D-13,14	Two coal mines operated as one combine with five shafts, among them the Kazimierz (C-13) and the Wygoda (C,D-13) shafts which are connected with the main shaft of Modrzejow. One of the leading Polish stakhanovite workers is employed in this mine. His name is Stefan Blaut, and [redacted] he was elected a Member of Parliament.
8A	Niwka coal mine	D-13	25X1A
9	Ludmiza coal mine	B-12	Located in the southern outskirts of Sosnowiec. My informant stated that between this coal mine and that located in the vicinity of the iron mill, Huta Staszic (No. 28), a kind of cooperation exists as far as electricity or coal etc. is concerned.
5.	"My informant could not state with certainty whether or not the 'Czerwona Gwardia' coal mine (this name was given to one of the largest coal mines within the area, formerly called 'Saturn' located in Czelardz, outside the reach of the plan) also belongs to the Dabrowskie coal mine union. Although this coal mine was first called by the revolutionary name, 'Red Star', it still remained anti-Communist and in 1951 was the place of outbreak of the revolt of the coal miners against Communism.		
6.	"At the end of 1951, the working hours of the miners were extended by 1/2 hour [a day] for the underground crew with no additional pay. This half hour was added to make the time lost in taking over shifts. The coal miners in 'Czerwona Gwardia' and the nearby Kazimierz Julisz coal mine in protest remained underground, and only with the assistance of the strong KBW [Internal security] and the Police Forces who went underground, could the coal miners be persuaded to leave their forts. Many hundreds of coal miners were arrested in this area, and some of them never showed up thereafter.		
7.	"My informant further stated in this connection that the two pre-World War II coal mines, Antoni and Zagisza, located north of [redacted], are still out of operation.		

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The Koszalew coal mine in Dabrowa-Gornicza is also still out of operation and has been taken over as a post by a fire-brigade.

8. "In addition my informant gave me the following information:

No.	Object	Location on Plan	Remarks
10	Malobadz power plant	B-6,7	<p>This power plant is now [redacted] the main power-supplying center for the whole Slasko-Dabrowskie coal basin. During World War II a new boiler was added to the plant's equipment and some more improvements were made after World War II. The Malobadz power plant is connected with many coal mines and other industrial enterprises in the area by a high-tension power-net. It is also additionally supplied with energy by some smaller power plants installed in individual coal mines, for example, the Nivka-Modrzejow (No. 8), Kazimierz-Juliusz (No. 1), and Klimontow (No. 2). After completion of the newly constructed Jaworzno power plants, near Myslenice, the importance of Malobadz was diminished to some extent. High-tension power lines from Jaworzno have already been constructed and cross the area on its southeastern edge. Some branch-offs from this line have been built within the Slasko-Dabrowski region. A further expansion of this net is under way [redacted].</p> <p>The Malobadz power plant will also be incorporated into the entire electrical power system net for the whole Silesian basin.</p>
11	Electrical Installations and Repair Workshops	G-4	<p>The Slasko-Dabrowskie coal industry union has under its control the CWE (Centralne Warsztaty Elektrotechniczne) which is responsible for all electrical installations within the individual mines. Besides the main workshops which are located in the pre-World War II Flora coal mine building (the coal mine is now out of operation [redacted] in the western outskirts of Dabrowa-Gornicza, the CWE in turn has at its disposal movable teams of highly skilled and specialized mechanics who take care of all electrical installations in the mines.</p>
12	Main water works	L-12	<p>Situated near Maczki on the bank of the Biala Przemsza river. These works supply water to the majority of the Slasko-Dabrowskie coal mines and to some larger plants located in the area. In 1953 the Maczki water works were enlarged with the idea of supplying water for individual consumption needs. The water supply system for the whole Silesian coal basin after the completion of the large water works near Gocza/Nowe according to the economic plan for the next five years [sic]. This project was begun before World War II and is</p>

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No.	Object	Location on Plan	Remarks
12	[continued]		[continued] now under realization. Three or four artificial lakes are nearly completed and will be the main source of water supply for the Silesian basin.
13	Sand supply center	H-1,2	Northeast of Golonag. This new sand supply center was opened up during World War II after completely exhausting the supply at the former center which was located on the spot where the Pogoria lake is now. The new sand supply center services the coal mines located in the northern part of the described area. In line with projects this area will be incorporated into the recently organized sand supply system from the Bledowska desert. The 'sand railway line', now [redacted] partly constructed, will cross the area in the southeastern corner not far from the Klimontow and Kazimierz coal mines. (My informant claims that construction on the railroad fills is being performed at present.)
13a	The Jezor sand supply center	G,H-11,12	Supplies the Kazimierz-Juliusz and Klimontow coal mines.
13b	Former sand supply center	L,M-4	Not used at present [redacted]; north of Strzemieszyce.
14	[Omitted by source]		
15	Railroad bridge	B-11	Over the Czarna Przemsza in the southwestern outskirts of Sosnowiec, still under reconstruction. This bridge was blown up during World War II. There is a provisional wooden bridge being used at present.
15a	Highway bridge	B-11	Over the Brynica river. It was blown up during World War II and has been rebuilt.
16	Railroad bridge	Z-10	Over the Brynica river in the western outskirts of Sosnowiec. It was blown up during World War II and has been partly rebuilt only for one-track railway traffic.
16a	Highway bridge	Z-10	Over the Brynica river. Blown up during World War II and has been reconstructed.
16b	Railroad bridge	B-8	Over the Czarna Przemsza; blown up during World War II, still not rebuilt. Traffic carried over provisional bridge.
8.	"Some more investments or improvements on the railway communication system in the Slasko-Dabrowskie area have been made with in the [redacted] e.g. some railway lines operated before only for transporting coal have been opened up for regular passenger service. In 1951 'the coal line', (Zabkowice-Grodziec-Mujkowie) was switched to both.		
9.	"In addition a new suburban electric-operated railway line was partly opened [redacted]. According to plans this line is scheduled as a circular system service all around the Slasko-Dabrowskie area and is intended to connect Sosnowiec with Dabrowa-		

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Gornicza, touching Klimontow-Kazimierz-Strzegomskie and back to Dabrowa-Gornicza. In 1953 this line was constructed and operated only as far as Klimontow.

10. "In the area controlled by the Slasko-Dabrowskie coal mining union quite a number of large enterprises of other branches are also in operation. My informant gave some details about these enterprises concentrating mainly on the area west of Dabrowa-Gornicza, Bedzin and Sosnowiec:

No.	Object	Location on Plan	Remarks
17	Dzierzynskiego steel mill	D,E-4	Before World War II this was the Bankowa steel mill. It is one of the oldest steel mills in Poland and was enlarged and modernized after World War II especially in its hammer mill section and rolling section. Between 1950 and 1951 two new Martins ovens were added to the previous number of five. The steel mill employs about 6,000 workers and produces mainly railway rails and iron girders for bridge construction. In 1952 the steel mill took over the warehouses that had been constructed during World War II for military purposes by the German authorities near Pieklo, northeast of Dabrowa-Gornicza. These warehouses are located in the forest near the Pogoria lake (No. 13a) and are equipped with their own railroad siding. The pre-World War II coal mine, Reden, now out of operation, was also taken over by the Dzierzynskiego steel mill for storage of metal scraps.
18	Ferrum Fabryka Obrabiarek	E-4	My informant was not sure of the name. According to him this pre-World War II Fittner and Gumper plant was taken over by the Ferrum concern which has its offices and main plant in Katowice. The plant produces metallurgical machines. The Ferrum plant is separated from the Dzierzynskiego steel mill by Kosciuszki Street and is a kind of auxiliary plant for the Dzierzynskiego steel mill.
19	Zinc mill	B-6	In the southern outskirts of Bedzin.
20	Chemical factory	B-6,7	In the southern outskirts of Bedzin.
21	Spinning mill	B-7,8	In the northern outskirts of Sosnowiec.
22	Boiler plant	B-8	According to non-confirmed information also a part of the Ferrum state concern. The plant manufactures boilers for ships and locomotives. While Polish shipyards are the permanent clients of this boiler plant, there are traces that in Rumania placed a large order with them. A special Polish mounting brigade was sent in the middle of to the Rumanian port of Constanta to put the boilers in the ships.
23	Kataryna Iron mill	C-8	No special data available.

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No.	Object	Location on Plan	Remarks
24	Sosnowiec iron mill	A,B-9	Formerly the Emma iron mill, engaged in the production of special steel alloys. Together with the steel mills Baildon, Ferrum (in Katowice) and the Batory mill, the Sosnowiec iron mill is under the control of a separate board for the production of 'special steels'.
25	Spinning mill	B-8,9	Before World War II was the Dittla spinnery.
26	Spinning mill	B-10	No more information available.
27	Cedlera rolling plant	C,D-11	In the southeastern outskirts of Sosnowiec, specializing in the production of thin-plates and in iron rods and bars.
28	Iron mill 'Staszic'	B,C-12	In the southern outskirts of Sosnowiec.
29	Brick kiln 'Staszic'	G-5	Presently [redacted] under expansion.
30	'Strem' plant	M,N-5	In Strzemieszyce. Before World War II this plant produced fertilizer. It has been taken over by the Slasko-Dabrowskie coal mining union to be used as warehouses and area workshops.
31	Fabryka Armatur	E,A-9	Factory producing various kinds of armatures.
32	Paper mill	B-10	In Sosnowiec.
33	Steel foundry	Z,A-9	In the western outskirts of Sosnowiec.
34	Radocha chemical plant	B-11	Engaged in chemical reprocessing of zinc. Radocha is also known for a special transitory camp located near the factory. Prisoners from various prisons are sent to this camp and from here are distributed to work as compulsory laborers attached to various coal mines.
35	Steel rope and wire producing factory	A-10	In Sosnowiec, near the Sosnowiec-Poludnie railway station.
36	Foundry	A-5	In the western outskirts of Bedzin.
37	Plant producing cable and insulating wire	B-5	Located near the Bedzin railway station.
38	Files for metal working plant	[omitted]	My informant stated that this rather small plant is located in the eastern part of Bedzin, not far from the cable factory.
39	Coal mining machinery plant	C,D,13-14	Located in Nivka.

11. "According to recently obtained information [exact date not given], the whole coal basin area is rather unimilitary, except for a few military installations, like the military barracks in Bedzin (No. 45, location B-5) where before World War II the 23rd Regiment of Light Artillery was posted. It is said that now an artillery unit is stationed in these barracks. Furthermore there are two or three army labor units in Bedzin which are housed in a newly constructed camp located in the eastern outskirts of Dabrowa-Gornicza (No. 46, location E,F-5). These units are mainly employed in the construction of the new coal mines, Zawadzki II (No. 3a) and Porabka (No. 7).

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12. "My informant claims that a new military airfield strip is presently under construction 'somewhere' north of Jagisza. .... 25X1A
13. "My informant also mentioned the 'Pekin' hospital located east of Sosnowiec (No. 47, location D-8). This is reserved as an isolation-hospital where serious cases resulting from mine accidents are brought. He said that it is extremely rare that anybody who is brought to this hospital is ever released.
14. "My informant also mentioned the penitentiary prison, Radocha', located in the southern outskirts of Sosnowiec (No. 48, location B-11) which is known all over Poland for its rigorous and sharp practices. Another investigation prison, the 'Ostra Gorka', is located in the center of the town, not far from the paper mill (No. 32) and a third one in the area of Bedzin (No. 50, location B-4)."

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